From: jake_michel@yahoo.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 8:38pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Currently the software development industry is at an inflection point.
The monolithic application architectures of the 1980's and 1990's are
giving way to architectures based on Object-Oriented design and XML-based
interoperability.

With its .NET software initiative, Microsoft is providing the leadership
that PC developers are looking for. Microsoft's work in the languages and
tools area is critical work that enables thousands of independent
developers to add value around the PC platform.

My view is that Microsoft is stepping into a void caused by a failure in
leadership at Sun Microsystems. Sun has impeded the market with legal
tactics and government lobbying, to prevent desktop developers from
innovating with modern programming languages. Sun, as a server vendor,
has a vested economic interest in today's "dumb client," and has used
legal and political tactics, as opposed to technological innovation, to
preserve today's outdated status quo.

Technologists may look back at the 1998-2001 period as a period of frozen
innovation, as competitors choose to compete on the basis of lawsuits and
government budgets rather than deliver products desired by the market. In
my opinion, much of the "dot.com" meltdown has been caused by
technological stagnation around mid-1990's software architectures. The
simplistic, dumb-terminal model of the HTML browser did not create a
platform where programmers could create a distinct value proposition.

The bottom line is that this industry needs to get back to work.
Microsoft appears to be taking a leadership role in delivering to the
programming languages and tools necessary to allow 3rd parties build the
software systems of tomorrow. This is work that must go forward without
further delay. The alternative is continued economic crisis in the
Information Technology industry.

Sincerely, Jason Michel

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